

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Even If / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You can have courage, even if...

SCRIPTURE

They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit" (Numbers 13:27 NIV).

But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large (Numbers 13:28 NIV).

And there we saw giants...and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight (Number 13:33 KJV).

And [they] said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them" (Numbers 14:7-9 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students find the confidence to face even the scariest changes by focusing on the God who is bigger than all they may face.

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, students often rely on instinct and emotions to make decisions because the part of the brain that is responsible for logical reasoning is still developing. Therefore, don't discount how big or scary something feels to them, even if it seems insignificant to you. Instead acknowledge their fear, help them name exactly what scares them and what potential outcomes could be, and remind them that they can be brave. Always hear them out, help them identify the next right step, and instill hope and stability by reminding them that both you and God are for them.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what areas would you say that you have a fear of failing?
2. Why do you think it's so tempting to shy away from the areas where we're afraid to fail?
3. Why can it be scary to make positive changes in our lives?
4. Share an example of a situation - either from real life or made up - where it's possible to experience fear and courage at the same time. What do you think about feeling courage and fear at the same time? (Examples: Bungee jumping, auditioning for a role, tryouts, first day at work)
5. Name an area where you need God to give you the courage to make changes.
6. As you think about making that change, what's one fear that comes to mind?
7. What would it look like for you to invite God into that situation?

TRY THIS

Since we know that students often rely on instinct and emotion to make decisions, have your students explore their different responses to the same situation by changing up which emotion they are seeing the situation through. Make up a simple situation like "You drop your friend's phone and the screen shatters." Throw out an emotion like "scared" or "sad" and have your students share how'd they react in that scenario if they were feeling that emotion.